

## Message Text

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11

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-02

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-12 OMB-01 AID-20 RSR-01 /137 W  
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R 300729 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4015

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L JIDDA 2232

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, LE, SA

SUBJ: MINISTER OF INTERIOR AFFIRMS SAG' S INTEREST IN  
A STABLE LEBANON

SUMMARY: MINISTER OF INTERIOR PRINCE FAHD AFFIRMED SAG' S  
SUPPORT OF GOL' S SECURITY AND STABILITY. HE WAS POTIM-  
ISTIC THAT ELEMENTS OF MODERATION LED BY PRESIDENT  
FRANJIEH WOULD FIND SATISFACTORY SOLUTION TO CHALLENGE  
OF LEFTISTS AMONG LEBANESE AND PALESTINIANS. PRINCE' S  
COMMENTS LEFT UNCLEAR, THOUGH, HOW FAR SAUDIS WOULD GO  
IF ASKED IN FUTURE TO GIVE MORE ACTIVE SUPPORT TO GOL.  
END SUMMARY.

1. DURING CALL ON MININTERIOR PRINCE FAHD MAY 27,  
AMBASSADOR STATED THAT USG HAD OBSERVED RECENT CLASHES  
BETWEEN GOL FORCES AND FEDAYEEN IN LEBANON WITH MUCH  
CONCERN; USG IN NO WAY UNSYMPATHETIC TO PROBLEMS WHICH  
PALESTINIANS FACE, BUT RECENT CLASHES IN BEIRUT SEEM TO  
INDICATE HOW LITTLE CONTROL FEDAYEEN LEADERS COULD EXER-  
CISE OVER THEIR MORE MILITANT FOLLOWERS AND ORGANIZATIONS.  
WE WERE GRATIFIED, OF COURSE, THAT FIGHTING HAS COME TO  
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AN END AND THAT NEW ACCORDS APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN REACHED BETWEEN GOL AND RESISTANCE MOVEMENT. IT WAS NO IMPORTANT THAT THESE AGREEMENTS BE FULLY AND PROPERLY IMPLEMENTED.

2. AMBASSADOR ADDED THAT SUPPORT OF FRIENDLY AND INFLUENTIAL GOVERNMENTS, SUCH AS THAT OF SAUDI ARABIA, WOULD ADD MORAL FORCE TO EFFORTS AT IMPLEMENTATION; HE HOPED THAT SUCH SUPPORT WOULD BE FORTHCOMING, SINCE ALTERNATIVES MIGHT BE FURTHER FRICTION AND UNREST THAT WOULD HARM THE INTERESTS OF ALL MODERATE REGIMES IN THE AREA.

3. PRINCE FAHD REPLIED THAT IT WAS SAG'S FIRM POLICY TO SUPPORT LEBANON'S SECURITY AND INTERNAL STABILITY. SAUDIS BELIEVED LEBANESE WERE FORTUNATE IN HAVING AS PRESIDENT A MAN WHO WISHED TO SPARE HIS COUNTRY ANY INTERNAL CONFLICTS; SAUDIS, MOREOVER, CONTINUE TO URGE THAT FEDAYEEN ACT WITH A CONSCIOUSNESS OF AND A RESPECT FOR THE HIGHER INTERESTS OF LEBANON. PRINCE ADDED THAT REGRETTABLY LEFTIST ELEMENTS AMONG LEBANESE AND AMONG FEDAYEEN AS WELL, APPEAR BENT ON CAUSING TROUBLE. HE WAS CONCERNED ABOUT THESE TWO ELEMENTS MAKING COMMON CAUSE, AND THAT LEBANON'S NEIGHBORS MIGHT ALSO SEEK TO MEDDLE IN ITS AFFAIRS. IT WAS PRINCE'S PERSONAL BELIEF, HOWEVER, THAT LEBANESE MODERATES WOULD ULTIMATELY COME OUT ON TOP, AND HE WAS ENCOURAGED THAT UP TO NOW THERE NO SIGNS OF CONFESSIOAL DIVISION WITHIN LEBANESE ARMY. PRINCE CONCLUDED BY ASSURING AMBASSADOR THAT SAUDI ARABIA WOULD ALWAYS DO WHAT IT COULD TO SUPPORT ORDER AND STABILITY WITHIN LEBANON.

4. COMMENT: WHILE PRINCE'S COMMENTS HAD THE RHETORICAL FLOURISHES TO WHICH HE IS SOMEWHAT ADDICTED, YET THEY WERE RENDERED WITH A GOOD DEAL OF POSITIVE CONVICTION. FAHD'S REMARKS, REFLECTING CONCERN PRINCIPALLY WITH PRESERVATION IN LEBANON OF STABLE, MODERATE GOVT, MAY PROVE AFFIRMATIONS OF WHICH WE CAN USEFULLY REMIND SAUDIS SHOULD THERE LATER BE RENEWAL OF ARMED STRUGGLE WITH FEDAYEEN. THE PRINCE'S COMMENTS DID NOT, HOWEVER, LEAVE US WITH ANY CLEAR IDEA OF JUST HOW FAR SAUDIS WOULD GO IF ASKED IN THE FUTURE TO GIVE MORE ACTIVE SUPPORT TO GOL.

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**TAGS:** PINS, LE, SA  
**To:** AMMAN  
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